In claim 8, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim 9, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim 10, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim 11, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim 12, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

N.E. In claim 14, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim 16, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 17, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 18, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 19, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 20, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 21, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 22, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 23, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 24, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 25, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

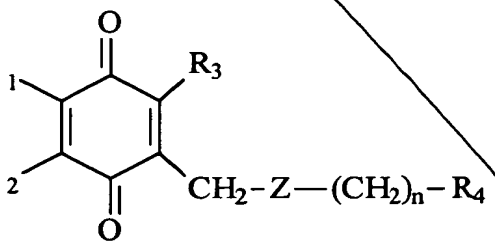
In claim 26, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 27, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 28, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

Please add the following new claims 38-41:

--38. A method for inhibiting NF-κB comprising administering to a patient in need of NF-κB inhibition a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):

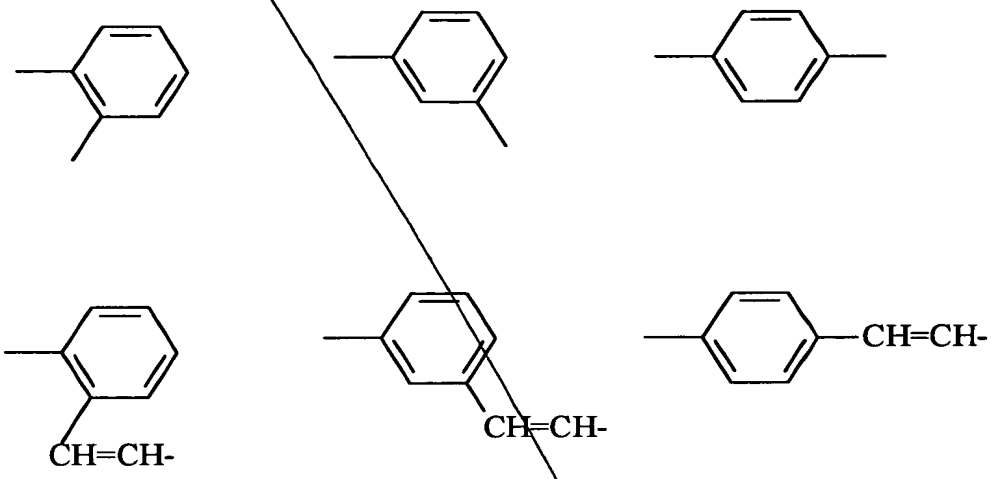


wherein

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

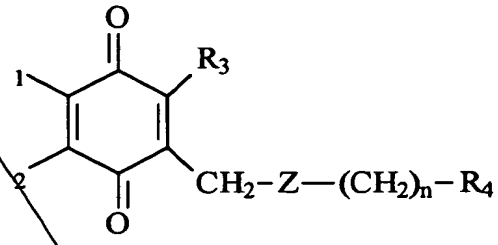


and, n is

an integer from 0 to 6, or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. A method for preventing or treating diseases caused by the activation of NF-κB comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):

C5 cont
B'

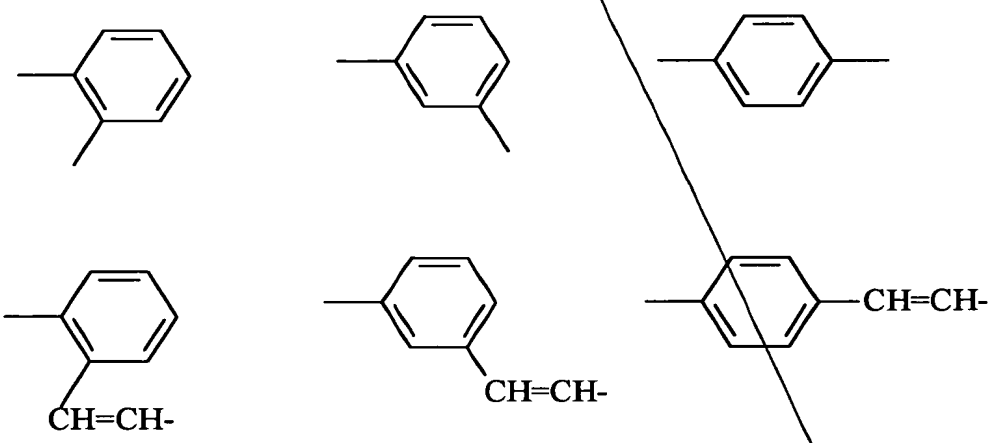


wherein

R_1, R_2, and R_3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

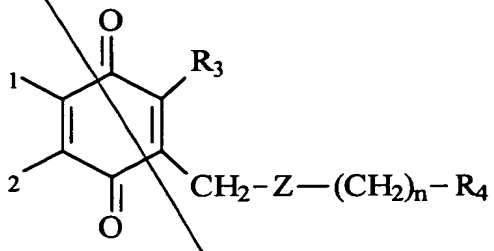


and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

C5 cont
B1

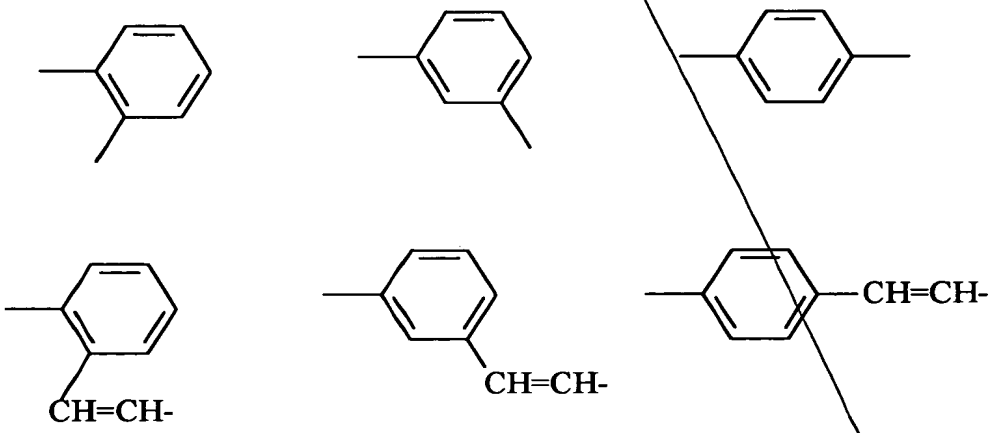
40. A method for inhibiting TNF-α production comprising administering to a patient in need of TNF-α inhibition a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

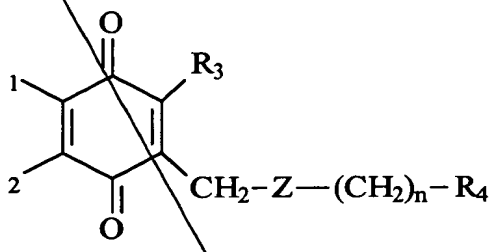


B1
C5 cont

and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. A method for preventing or treating diseases caused by the excessive production of TNF-α comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is